

Regular Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees
November 4, 2024 – 7:00 - DRAFT
Public Hearing – Tree Ordinance Law – 7:00pm

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Greenwich was held November 4, 2024, in the Board Room at 6 Academy St. Present were Mayor Hurley, Trustees: Vandewater, Grimmke, Robinson and Moore, as well as Attorney Kelly, President Mumby, and Superintendent Smith, Sergeant Gauthier and Chief Hopkins. Mayor Hurley opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

7:00PM – Mayor Hurley opened the Public Hearing on the proposed Local Law No 4 of 2024 entitled “Tree Law of the Village of Greenwich.” She went on to explain The Village of Greenwich will create a Tree Committee to establish regulations governing the planting, maintenance, and removal of trees and shrubs in the public streets, rights-of-way, parks and other municipally owned property in the Village of Greenwich. We take our trees seriously. This will help the Village become a “Tree City USA”, which will help bring more trees to our Village. She asked for questions and received none. Public Hearing was closed at 7:01pm.

Resolution No29 of 2024 to approve “Tree Law of the Village of Greenwich” made on a motion by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

Vouchers

General Fund Voucher numbers 206 – 248 totaling \$64,012.25

Water Fund Voucher numbers 42 – 50 totaling \$11,690.80

Sewer Fund Voucher numbers 27 - 32 totaling \$6,928.80

Water Improvement numbers 30 - 33 totaling \$511,893.29

Motion to pay the above bills so moved by Trustee Grimmke seconded by Trustee Moore and carried by all.

Approval of the draft Meeting Minutes from October 7, 2024, made on a motion by Trustee Vandewater, second by Trustee Moore and carried by all.

Department Reports

Fire: Chief Hopkins delivered the October report: Total in-district alarms: 29. EMS calls – 25. Rescue extrication 1, fire 1, hazards 0, service calls 1, and 1 alarm activation. Mutual aid assist – 1 with a water rescue from the Battenkill River. Aid provided to Easton, Salem, Middle Falls, Victory Mills and Schuylerville. Total alarms – 36. Fire and Emergency response hours – 105.5, training hours 265.5 and activity – 600 for a total of 971 hours. Tractor Parade Emergency Preparedness initial meeting included County and State emergency services and first responders as well as local representation such as Middle Falls Fire Chief Rob Squires, Easton/Greenwich EMS Frank Brownell, Sgt. Gauthier and Deputy Chief Smith and me. Five zones of focus are crowd control, traffic control, fire, and emergency medical services. December 3 are the Fire Department elections.

Police: Sergeant Gauthier delivered the October report: There are no statistics available because the server is down. There were _ cases reported to the DCJS in September totaling ___ reported for the year. Arrests totaled - with 3 _ arrests for the year. There were 76 calls logged with County Dispatch for the month. Calls for service for the year 2024 - 975. We have new computers for the vehicles with one car still needing a printer which is affecting our ability to issue tickets. That should be remedied soon.

DPW: Superintendent Smith delivered the October report: normal work occurred along with the Water Improvement Project. The 6" water main break on Simpson St. was discovered Friday morning and was worked on all that day into the early hours of Saturday, when the repair was complete. The Town of Greenwich Highway Department's Stan Mattison helped with manpower and 3 pieces of equipment which made the work go much easier than it would have been and we owe them a big thank you. A 50' section was washed out and a call is into Peckhams to repave that section. A new service line was connected to 63 Eddy St. Salt shed materials are being priced out. Mayor Hurley asked Mike to check the winterization of the splash pad.

Dunbarton: Fencing to secure the sluice at Dunbarton are as follows: 800' of 5' stockade fencing approximately \$15,000, 8' chain link would be \$10-\$15,000. These costs are materials only. A quote for 6' chain link will be added to these to discuss at the December meeting. Trustee Vandewater expressed skepticism regarding the efficacy of fencing in light of past experience with vandalism at all attempts to secure the site. Attorney Kelly reported on calls with DEC in which security of the site and containment of contaminants are going to be required. For example, piles of contaminants will need to be covered so as not to allow migration. This will allow an agreement with DEC for a "hold harmless" designation. The results of the Environmental Assessment Phase 2 should be before the end of the year. At that point the Village will reevaluate options. A decision to go forward or not will be made then. The DEC standard is called "All Appropriate Care" which means the site is under control.

Youth: President Mumby delivered the October report: attendance was 210 youths with an average daily attendance of 9. The 33rd Annual Halloween Parade was the big focus for the month. This was the first year CCGY hosted and organized. Approximately 200 people attended, with the Anderson family taking the top prize for Best in Show. Thanks to all sponsors for their generosity including platinum sponsor The Fort Miller Group and many others who contributed in ways large and small. Purchasing a Hannaford Helps Community Bag Program will donate \$1 for every bag sold in November.

Mayor: Mayor Hurley delivered the October report: **Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP)** We met last week to set the initial vision and goals for the Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP). The focus was on outlining a vision that prioritizes sustainable development, accessible public spaces, and economic growth for the Greenwich waterfront area. Next month, we'll be defining the specific area of focus more clearly and planning outreach to neighboring towns, including Jackson and Easton, to invite their participation. **Lead Service Line Inventory** - We submitted the initial inventory to DOH a couple of weeks ago and posted the results in the Village Office. We will work to notify the customers with service lines classified as GSLRR or unknown on the status of their service lines. **DRI/NY Forward-** We submitted our application on October 18th and we have since had a positive sign from Empire State Development. They asked for a 1.5 hour walking tour of the project area. I along with Jim Nolan will be walking with reps from ESD tomorrow, November 5th from Mill Hollow up through to Big Lots Parking Lot. We will hear about the award in January. **Parks and Recreation** - The committee is going to Thunder Mountain on November 9th at 11:30 a.m. to mark trails and do some trail cleaning. All are invited. They also have some rules and guidelines that they'll present to the board next month. **Safe Harbor Laws – Animal** - This past month we had a resident in a medical emergency, and it came to my attention that we did not have the legal authority to go in and take the dog, nor do we have a contract with anywhere to Kennel a dog. If we adopt safe harbor law, we would be protecting the village from litigation and creating a process for these unique situations. Safe harbor laws are designed to protect animal welfare, often allowing municipalities to take custody of a dog (or other animals) if the animal is in an unsafe, abusive, or neglectful situation. These laws provide a "safe harbor" for animals, empowering authorities to remove them from harmful conditions without legal repercussions for the

agency, as long as they follow due process and local ordinances. The primary goal is to ensure the dog's health and safety. I will be working with our animal control officer to develop recommendations for the board's consideration at a meeting soon. **Restore Round 7-** We finalized all of the paperwork to close out this grant last week. We will be submitting it this week and once we receive the funds, they will be distributed to the Witches Wash. I would like to thank Brian for offering and paying the \$1,000 fee to ESD which was unexpected from all parties. **Mowry Park – Electric Panel** - It was brought up that the new electric panel is an eye sore. It was built to code for what's on it and height (snow). We are going to look to be creative and enlist the FFA, or an artist, etc. We will work with the garden and parks group for recommendations. **Windy Hill Wellness** - Attended the Open House, in celebration of Holly Harris' grand opening. Thank you, Holly, for seeing the potential here and for choosing to bring Windy Hill Wellness to our community. This dispensary is about more than just business; it's about providing safe, responsible access to cannabis in a way that aligns with the values of our community. Windy Hill Wellness represents a forward-thinking approach to wellness, education, and economic growth right here in the heart of Greenwich. For cannabis sales tax revenue from a new business in Greenwich, the Village will receive 3% of the gross sales of cannabis products.

Old Business:

- **DPW new hire discussion.** Should we look for a hire who will learn Wastewater Treatment Plant operations? Civil Service will be consulted on adding this to the MEO job descriptions. The Treasurer has circulated a proposal to increase the salaries of DPW to be more consistent with neighboring municipalities. Part of the proposal would include limiting overtime. The benefit to the village would be to make us more attractive to potential employees, much needed. The ever increasing workload would be spread across a larger staff. Trustee Grimmke will sit down with the Treasurer to discuss in more detail. To be discussed in December.

New Business:

- **Tree Committee Members** – Trustee Moore is on the committee, as is DPW Superintendent Smith and Zoning Officer Mollica. Three applicants that we would like to appoint are; Lisa Perkins, who painted the gazebo so beautifully this year, Kate Morse, Executive Director of Hudson Crossing Park and Cal O'Connell, a professional landscaper for the last 15 years. Thanks, and congratulations to all.
- **Park and Parade Permit** change for for-profit groups. The cost of supporting events can run \$2,500-\$3,500 and up. We would like to discuss the possibility of revising our application for for-profit groups to cover our costs. Attorney Kelly will investigate this.
- **Domain name purchase for Whipplecity.com.** The cost is \$265, good for 5 years. Approved on a motion by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Grimmke and carried by all.
- **AGTFC** application was submitted last week. Most of the work for this application was completed for the TAP grant, so this application was a light lift. This grant includes ADA compliant sidewalks enhancing non-motorized travel with efficiency and safety, restriped crosswalks, slip resistant pavers, improved sightlines for pedestrians and more. The Board approved this application, Trustee Grimmke made a motion to ratify that decision, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.
- **Dunbarton estimate** for an appraisal of the property to take title for eminent domain. We have an estimate in hand from Chestnut Appraisals for \$1800. Attorney Kelly's recommendation is to hold off on executing this contract until after the Phase 2 report is delivered. At that time there will be more information to base our decision whether to take title or not.

- **Resolution No30 of 2024** to move no more than \$6,000 for DPW Capital Equipment Fund for repairs to street sweeper and leaf picker, subject to Permissive Referendum. Moved on a motion by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Robinson and carried by all.

Permits

- Building Use Permit – Lili Loveday. Mondays @ 10:00am - 11:30am for preschoolers following the GCS calendar. Approved.
- Building Use Permit – GYC Sundaes with Santa 12.8 or 12.15. Crafts, photos and food. Approved

Correspondence

- **Michelle Morris** has provided a 30-day notice for the Village for a restaurant at 99 main St to be called Juniper.
- **Deb and Randall Tjarks** have asked the Village if the .02 acre lot on the corner of Van Ness and Hill St. which they have been maintaining for 27 years could be formally theirs. It is currently owned by the Village and has no parcel number. Attorney Kelly said the Village can declare it surplus and the Tjarks can come up with an appraisal and make an offer.

Public Comment

- Art Erbe asked if there was compensation for sweeping the streets from the state. He also asked what is happening with the used slate. Trustee Grimmke thought no, but potential grant money could be available to replace the sweeper when the time comes. The slate will be repurposed in the parks. It will be replaced with concrete sidewalks.

8:00 Motion to close the Regular Meeting and move into Executive Session to discuss personnel made by Trustee Grimmke, seconded by Trustee Vandewater and carried by all.

8:16pm Motion to close Executive Session by Trustee Vandewater, seconded by Trustee Moore and carried by all.

Respectfully submitted.

Jane Dowling – Village Clerk